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# Community *notes*

## Medicare Informational Sessions

The [Howard County State Health Insurance Assistance Program](#) (SHIP) provides education and counseling, the most universal and critical needs for today's Medicare beneficiaries, their families, and/or caregivers. SHIP sponsors two upcoming sessions at the Ellicott City 50+ Center (9411 Frederick Road, Ellicott City) to help residents stay informed about their healthcare options and insurance policy needs. To register for these workshop, call 410-313-7389. See the [schedule](#) for a full list of events.

### Medicare 101: What You Can Expect from Medicare Wednesday, February 8 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Did you recently enroll in Medicare or will be enrolling soon? Do you help someone who has Medicare as his or her health insurance? This presentation covers how Medicare Parts A (Hospital), B (Medical) and D (Prescription Drug) work, what the benefits are, and when you should make decisions related to your coverage. Find out about benefit programs that can help pay for Medicare health care costs, as well as how to protect against Medicare fraud.

### Medicare 102: Why Medicare Isn't Enough

Wednesday, February 15 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Learn about Medicare Part C/Health Plans and Medicare Supplement Policies (Medigap Plans). What should you consider when deciding if a Medicare Health Plan, such as an HMO, PPO or Cost Plan, is the right choice for you? Learn about how Medicare Supplement Policies (Medigap Plans) can help cover out of pocket expenses and bridge insurance gaps.

## Greetings

The weather outside might be gray and chilly, but the arts scene in Howard County is just getting warmed up. There are quite a few interesting new exhibits to challenge, inspire, and stir the heart. I hope to see you there.

*May Kay*

## Evening in the Stacks: An International Affair

Join the fun at "An International Affair" on Saturday, February 25 from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. at the Howard County Library System, Charles E. Miller Branch & Historical Center (9421 Frederick Road, Ellicott City). Howard County Library System welcomes guests for an evening of live music, literary entertainment, silent auction and gourmet food. This year's keynote speaker is author Nadia Hashimi, the daughter of two Afghan immigrants. Hashimi's latest novel, *A House Without Windows*, takes a look at the lives of modern Afghan women. Each \$150.00 [ticket](#) entitles guests to enjoy all this and more:

- Red carpet welcome
- Dancing and live music by Junkyard Saints
- Wide selection of internationally themed food: Global hors d'oeuvres, beers and wines
- Royal Tai Table with vegetarian stir fry, chicken with shrimp stir fry, and more
- Ice Cream Sundae Bar and French pastries
- Surprise Signature Cocktails by The Wine Bin



For more information about this event, please visit the [website](#) or call 410-313-7750. Proceeds from Evening in the Stacks benefit such signature initiatives as Battle of the Books.

## Jazzercise GirlForce– Free Classes



The [Jazzercise Columbia Fitness Center](#) is pleased to offer free classes throughout 2017 for girls ages 16 to 21. [GirlForce](#) provides a safe environment for young women to get fit, boost self-confidence, and learn to make healthy decisions. Stop by the center (9221 Rumsey Road, Suite 5, Columbia) and bring workout clothes, sneakers and water. Jazzercise Columbia can be reached by phone (443-745-6900) or [email](#) for more information.

## Columbia Association Budget Hearings

Columbia Association's (CA) Board of Directors holds public budget hearings throughout the fiscal year. CA's budget process provides ample opportunities for input by residents, representatives of village community associations, advisory committee members and others to comment on budget priorities. Speakers are encouraged to provide written versions of their remarks. Testimony also can be provided via [email](#). There are two upcoming CA budget meetings in February:

- Thursday, February 9: A CA Board work session for deliberation on adjustments and inputs to the conditional FY18 budget.
- Thursday, February 23: A CA Board meeting that includes discussion of and voting on approval of the final FY18 budget revisions and annual charge rate and cap.

The hearings begin at 7:30 p.m. in CA Headquarters (6310 Hillside Court, Columbia). CA's approved FY2017 budget and its conditional FY2018 budget are available [online](#).

## Collision Avoidance Training

Do you know a young driver who wants to learn more about cornering, skid recovery, emergency braking, and evasive maneuvering? Test driving skills and learn how to better handle a car in various situations. The Collision [Avoidance Training](#) (CAT) program is designed for drivers 16 to 20 years old to learn how to better handle their car in a variety of driving situations. The Howard County Police Department offers the next CAT on Saturday, March 25 at the James N. Robey Public Safety Training Center (2200 Scott Wheeler Drive, Marriottsville). Sign up by calling 410-313-3758 or contact [Jessica Beram](#). Tuition is \$95.00, and scholarships are available.

## Sip and Savor

Enjoy chocolate and wine tasting at Haven on the Lake (10275 Little Patuxent Parkway, Columbia) with [Sip and Savor](#) on Thursday, February 9 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. This special event features a sampling of organic chocolates from Salazon Chocolate Co., as well as a decadent selection of wines from The Iron Bridge Wine Company. Attendees also have the chance to win prizes. Register by Thursday, February 2 by calling 410-715-3020 or via [email](#).



## Howard County Arts: February Shows Around Town

### Bernice Kish Gallery

The [Bernice Kish Gallery](#) at Slayton House (10400 Cross Fox Lane, Columbia) announces a group exhibit in the galleries for February and March 2017. Members of the Artists' Gallery exhibit their work in a mixed media exhibit in celebration of Wilde Lake Village's 50th birthday in the Lobby and Bill White Room Galleries. This exhibit runs from Friday, February 17 through Saturday, March 25. The public is invited to attend a reception on Sunday, February 19 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. where guests can enjoy refreshments and music by Bruce Casteel. For more information, call 410-730-3987 or [email](#) Carole Black, the gallery director.

### Artists' Gallery

[Artists' Gallery](#), new to Main Street in Ellicott City, dedicates February to acquainting its visitors and patrons to member artists during its upcoming show, "Introductions." They're showcasing the talents of newest artists painter Joan Bevelacqua, quilter Etarae Weinstein and potter Kathy Swan,



among many others. All are welcome to an opening reception for the show, with food and wine, on Friday, February 10 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the gallery (8197 Main Street, Ellicott City). For more information, please call 443-325-5936.

### Horowitz Performing Arts Center

The [Columbia Film Society](#) presents "Love and Friendship" on Friday, February 3 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. and again from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. at the Smith Theatre (10901 Little Patuxent Parkway, Columbia). "Love and Friendship" is an adaptation of Jane Austen's novella *Lady Susan* – written when she was 19 and not published in her lifetime. Set in the opulent drawing rooms of eighteenth-century English society, the film focuses on the machinations of a beautiful widow, Lady Susan Vernon, who, while waiting for social chatter about a personal indiscretion to pass, takes up temporary residence at her in-laws' estate. For more information, the box office is available at 443-518-1500 or via [email](#).

### Columbia Arts Center

The [Columbia Arts Center](#) presents the Maryland Pastel Society Signature Member Show, Taking Position with Pastel, from Thursday, February 9 through Sunday, March 5. Join the reception on Sunday, February 12 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at 6100 Foreland Garth in Columbia. Enjoy a wide variety of artworks by Signature Members of the Maryland Pastel Society. Signature Members have achieved this status by demonstrating proficient levels of skills such as concept, composition and technical application. Contact the gallery at 410-730-0075 or via [email](#) for more information.

## S.T.E.A.M. Power

The Maryland Science Center is excited to bring you a Cooking with S.T.E.A.M. Power Workshop on Saturday, February 19 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Chef Egg's live cooking presentation showcases how science, technology, engineering, art, and math (S.T.E.A.M.) concepts effect how we grow, cook, and gain energy from our food. Participants learn about the effects of heat on food, cooking



technology and preparation through the ages, by preparing vegetable fried rice and grains. Then Chef Egg takes participants on a culinary journey through the cosmos and space-walks them through the S.T.E.A.M. of outer space nutrition. Through S.T.E.A.M. innovation, learn how the scientists and engineers at NASA create healthy meals for astronauts that will keep them fueled for success in space. Admission is \$20.00 per person at the Maryland Science Center (601 Light Street, Baltimore). There is no member discount for this program. All supplies and museum admission are included. The workshop is designed for ages 10 and up, and anyone under 16 must participate with an adult. [Advance registration](#) and payment required.

## Howard County Recycling Tips

The Bureau of Environmental Services offers Howard County residents the following information:

### Presidents' Day Schedule

There will be regular collections on Monday, February 20. The Alpha Ridge Landfill will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The main Bureau of Environmental Services office on Columbia Gateway Drive will be closed.

### Green Ideas for Valentine's Day

- Save a tree and ditch the paper cards. E-cards are better for the environment and many websites offer them for free.
- Instead of buying a gift, consider donating time (or money) to an organization. Volunteering at the local animal shelter or your favorite community organization means less waste and more memories.



### Curbside Yard Trim Collection Ended Jan 13

Residents can take yard trim material to The [Alpha Ridge Landfill WoodWaste Area](#) for recycling. Yard trim collection will resume the first week in April. [Feed The Green Bin](#) areas receive curbside yard trim & food scrap collection year-round.

## Leadership U Howard County

Are the high schoolers in your life interested in developing leadership skills and making a difference in their community? Howard County sophomores with a passion for community service are invited to learn more about [Leadership U](#). The next [information session](#) is held on Monday, February 13 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Central Library (10375 Little Patuxent Parkway, Columbia), where students learn to lead the way.

## Upcoming Events

### Howard County Restaurant Weeks

**Now through February 6, 2017**

Howard County [Restaurant Weeks](#) is a bi-annual, 15 day celebration of the local culinary scene in Howard County. Featured restaurants include Clyde's of Columbia, The Iron Bridge Wine Co., and Kloby's Smokehouse.

### First Friday Fun

**Friday, February 3, 5:00—8:00 p.m.**

**Maryland Science Center**

601 Light Street, Baltimore, MD 21230

The \$10.00 admission to [First Friday](#) includes the permanent exhibit halls, planetarium, and IMAX Theater.

### Winter Crisp Nature Walk

**Saturday, February 4, 2:30—4:00 p.m.**

**Robinson Nature Center**

6692 Cedar Lane, Columbia, MD 21044

Discover how to identify trees in winter, the survival tactics of wildlife, and many more winter wonders. After, restore your warmth and energy around a campfire. Children must be accompanied by an adult. [Registration](#) is \$7.00 per person.

### Valentine's Chocolate and Jewelry Show

**Sunday, February 5, 3:00—5:00 p.m.**

**Historic Oakland**

5340 Vantage Point Road, Columbia, MD 21044

Shop for your loved one or treat yourself with exquisite jewelry, chocolates, spa services, and more at this [Valentine's showcase](#). Admission is free. Please [register](#) in advance.

### CA's International Book Club

**Wednesday, February 8, 7:30—9:00 p.m.**

**Columbia Association Headquarters**

6310 Hillside Court, Columbia, MD 21046

The February book selection for Columbia Association's monthly [International Book Club](#) is *Wilde Lake* by Laura Lippman, a former Columbia resident.



Mary Kay Sigaty

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